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Case MB 374

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Volker Döring et al

Title: EXHAUST GAS TURBINE FOR TURBOCHARGERS

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 9, 2003

SIR:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - SECTION 1.97(b)

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants' representative hereby submits US Patent & Trademark Office Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted for consideration in the examination of the above-referenced patent application. It is respectfully requested that they be made of record, along with whatever references the Examiner may find in the course of a search, should the Examiner consider them material to the subject application.

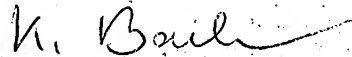
The references are considered to represent the closest state of the art and is described in detail in the introductory part of the application. It is however related to a valve lifter as such, not to a valve lifter operating control system as is the present invention.

The reference does not disclose that in an operating system for a hydraulic valve clearance control element of an internal combustion engine, which includes a hydraulic fluid having a pressure that depends on the engine operating state and wherein the

hydraulic clearance control element includes a pressure chamber in which a hydraulic fluid volume is maintained for adjusting the length of the hydraulic clearance control element and means for maintaining the fluid volume when, after engine shut down, the pressure of the hydraulic fluid supplied by an engine fluid pressure source drops below a certain value so as to maintain the hydraulic clearance control element at its operating length during engine shutdown, means are arranged on the hydraulic fluid supply line to the hydraulic valve clearance control element for releasing hydraulic fluid to reduce its pressure below the certain value immediately upon engine shut down to safely maintain the hydraulic clearance control elements at their operating length.

This Statement is hereby submitted under Section 1.97(b) since it is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Bach', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Klaus J. Bach, Reg. No.: 26832

